

INVADER OF CUBA DEPICTS DEBACLE

Prisoner Is Said to Blame
'False' Intelligence

HAVANA, March 31 (AP)—The mass trial of 1,179 Cubans captured in last April's futile invasion has been told that faulty intelligence, presumably by the United States, led to disaster.

Supporting landings never came, promised air cover never showed up and invading forces were told that they were landing on an uninhabited beach only to run into troops and tanks, according to a letter introduced at the military trial.

The trial, in Principe Prison, is in recess until Monday, but Havana newspapers published the letter, which was purported to have been written by one of the invaders, José Perez San Roman, to his parents in Miami.

Señor San Roman commanded a battalion last April 17 when the invaders landed on the beaches of Bahia de Cochinos on Cuba's southern coast.

Western newsmen have been barred from the trial of those captured in the attack and must rely on accounts in the Government-controlled press.

Data Held False

The gist of the letter attributed to Señor San Roman follows:

The invaders were given 'false and inexact' information that Premier Fidel Castro's army was demoralized, that it was without tanks, that the invaders would go in with air superiority to an uninhabited beach and that it would take Premier Castro's forces three days to react.

The first wave of invaders to land on the beach found that most of its communications equipment would not work because of "simple and fragile" construction.

Supply ships vanished beyond the horizon after one had been sunk by the Cuban air force, which quickly established air superiority. Many air-dropped supplies must have fallen behind the lines of the Castro forces.

Instead of an uninhabited beach, the invaders ran into a town with hundreds of lights and a communications link with Havana. The alarm was sounded swiftly.

The second day dawned with Señor San Roman's battalion without communications or medical supplies. The invaders suffered considerable casualties from Cuban troops and they were without ammunition for their heavy arms.

With the first day's landings, diversionary invasions also were planned for Pinar del Rio province in the west and Oriente province in the extreme east. There were rumors of such invasions at the time, but the letter said neither invasion had been staged.

Wounded Left Behind

On the third day of the invasion, a twin-engine transport landed on an airstrip prepared by the invaders. It hurriedly unloaded some crates but took off without having picked up any of the wounded.

When the Castro armored forces drove within 500 yards of the invaders' last-ditch position, Señor San Roman and a group of aides fled to the swamps, where they roamed for six days.

"Hunger made us come to one of the roads crossing some thickets in search of crabs," the letter said. A patrol captured Señor San Roman.

The invader was said to have written the letter to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. José Perez Torres

of Miami, on May 6, 1961, less than two weeks after his capture.

Another prisoner was quoted as having said that the United States had "invented the unprecedented force."

He is Oscar Carbo, a newsmen and son of a former Havana newspaper publisher. Señor Carbo was one of the captives permitted to go to the United States last summer to try to

arrange a prisoners-for-tractors exchange. The exchange talks fell through.

The newspaper accounts said Señor Carbo had confirmed orally at his trial a statement he had made previously which accused the United States of having taken part in training the Cubans in Guatemala and in landing them on the Cuban beach.

The indictment charges that

the invasion was prepared by the United States Central Intelligence Agency. The specific charges have not been announced.

The Havana press asserts all the prisoners have pleaded guilty. The prosecution is expected to ask the five-man tribunal to impose sentences ranging from death to twenty years in prison.

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Q.P. SANROMAN